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UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT
SOUTHERN DISTRICT OF NEW YORK
IN RE: FOREIGN EXCHANGE Case No.
BENCHMARK RATES ANTITRUST 1:13-cv-07789-LG
LITIGATION
Deposition of
KEITH KORNELL
March 30, 2018
1:52 P.M.
Taken at:
Landskroner Grieco & Merriman, LC
1360 West 9th Street
Cleveland, Ohio
Wendy L. Klauss, RPR

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1	A. Yes.	
2	Q. And w	no are you represented by in
3	this case?	
4	A. Ed Co	chran.
5	Q. Is Mr	. Pentz serving as your
6	attorney as well,	or just Mr. Cochran?
7	A. My une	derstanding is that Mr. Pentz
8	is co-counsel with	n Mr. Cochran.
9	Q. So to	be clear, you consider both
10	of them to be you:	attorneys in this case?
11	A. I do.	
12	Q. Now,	understand you sat in this
13	morning's deposit:	ion with Mr. Galan, correct?
14	A. Yes.	
15	Q. So you	heard me go through the
16	ground rules, cor	rect?
17	A. Yes.	
18	Q. Did a	ll those ground rules make
19	sense?	
20	A. Yes,	chey did.
21	Q. We wil	l apply all of those that we
22	did this morning	to your deposition today to
23	you.	
24	A. Okay.	
25	Q. Before	going forward, are you on

Q. So would you agree that in
assessing the reasonableness of an attorney fee
for a particular class action case, that it is
important to know the particulars of what
happened?
A. Yes.

Q. Are there any differences that you can articulate between the platinum and palladium case and then this FX case here that would make the requested fee in this case inappropriate, whereas the awarded fee in platinum and palladium was acceptable?

MR. COCHRAN: Objection.

- A. I would have no way of knowing that.
- Q. So other than the platinum and palladium case that we have just been discussing, have you served as a main class plaintiff in any other class action?
- A. Not that I recall. I may have been in a small stock one, but I can't even tell you what stock it was. But no, I haven't.
- Q. Other than what you just told me about the other stock case, do you remember anything else about what that case was about,

and then the high end is maybe 3,000 during
that timeframe. The more volatile they become,
the higher they become, the more they raise the
margins or lower the margins.

- Q. What was the typical margin range for the U.S. dollar index that you also traded?
- A. Again, it was very cheap at that timeframe. Maybe a thousand dollars. Now it's \$3,000.
- Q. Now, going back to the 2014 to today timeframe, I think you said that your trading has been insignificantly less, right?
  - A. Right.
- Q. Is that because the margin requirement has increased so much, or is there a different reason?
- A. The only one I can come up with so far, I have been trading since I was young, I developed a trading system, which was incredibly accurate during that period from 2007 to 2011, and basically in 2012, it stopped working, but I didn't stop investing. So I basically lost my working capital to make further investments.
  - Q. Do you know what this lawsuit is

abou	t	3

- A. Yes, I do.
- Q. What's it about?
- A. It is basically about the big banks doing another one of their things, where they screw people and they got their hand caught in the cookie jar, and they put -- the federal government penalized them, and then we have a settlement for damages to the people that were involved, the victims of it.
  - Q. Were you done? I'm sorry.
  - A. Yeah. I think that's an answer.
  - Q. I just didn't want to cut you off.
  - A. I do it to you all the time.
  - Q. It happens. It's okay.

So just digging a little deeper in that, what is your understanding, if any, as to what the banks were doing to screw people, in your words, not mine?

A. It sounded to me like they had a given amount of time that they could settle trades in, and when you were buying -- when you were buying a euro or a dollar or whatever, when you were buying it, they juggled that timeframe so you always paid the highest price,

when you sold it, you always got the lowest	
price, and the bank was working on the	
difference, which could be a small amount, bu	t
when you do a number of trades, it becomes a	
big amount of money.	

- Q. And how long have you known this is what the case was about, at least in your words?
- A. After I heard about it from John Glase.
- Q. So you have known about that before today?
  - A. Yes.
    - Q. Can name any of the defendants?
  - A. I know Chase Bank is in there, Bank of America is in there, Credit Suisse. Those are the few that I remember off the top of my head.
  - Q. Have you read any of the various complaints filed by the main plaintiffs in this case?
  - A. No.
- Q. Do you have an understanding of
  what claims are being alleged in this lawsuit?
  And by claims, I mean legal theories,

L	understanding you are not an attorney, but just
2	saying at a high level, what is the legal claim
3	being made, if you know?
Į	MR. COCHRAN: Objection.

- A. Are you talking about the case against the banks or --
  - Q. Yes.

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- A. -- or our case, our objection?
- Q. Not your objection. I'm talking about the lawsuit that's been filed by class counsel. Do you have any understanding of what claims they are alleging?
  - A. The one I described earlier.
- Q. Do you understand that in this case, there are two different classes?
- A. Well, I mean, what I would call the retail classes, there is the people that did the futures, like myself, and then I would call them the institutional side. You call them over-the-counter transactions.
- Q. So let's call those the exchange class and then the over-the-counter class.
  - A. Yes.
- Q. Do you know which class you are a member of or claim to be a member of?

settlement	fund	as	fees	or	reimbursement	for
expenses?						

- A. No, I did not see that.
- Q. Before filing your objection with the Court, did you contact class counsel to ask them about their efforts in representing the class?
- A. No. I never got a notice, so I wouldn't know where to even contact them or who it was.
- Q. Sure. Even after, it sounds like, you were in touch with Mr. Cochran and Mr. Pentz earlier this year.

After being aware of the case, from Mr. Glase or from your counsel, did you ever try to contact class counsel to ask them about their efforts in representing the class?

- A. No.
- Q. Before filing your objections, did you ever try to find out what class counsel thought they did that would justify their requested attorneys' fees?
  - A. No.
- Q. Before filing your objection with the Court, did you ever try to find out from

	_
1	class counsel anything about this case?
2	A. No. I mean, I felt I already had
3	counsel, so I didn't need to pursue anyone
4	else.
5	Q. Do you know if anybody on your
6	behalf contacted class counsel, before you
7	filed your objection, trying to learn anything
8	about what class counsel did in this case?
9	A. I wouldn't know what Ed and John
10	Pentz have done or not done.
11	
12	(Thereupon, Deposition Exhibit 1,
13	Lead Counsel's Notice of Motion for
14	an Award of Attorneys' Fees and
15	Reimbursement of Litigation
16	Expenses, was marked for purposes of
17	identification.)
18	; <del>-</del>
19	Q. Handing you what has been labeled
20	Exhibit 1. It is a document filed in this
21	case, ECF number 937, Lead Counsel's Motion For
22	Attorneys' Fees and the Memo in Support of the
23	Motion For Attorneys' Fees and Reimbursement of
24	Expenses. Have you seen this document before?

No.

Α.

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1	Q. Okay. You can put that to the
2	side.
3	
4	
5	(Thereupon, Deposition Exhibit 2,
6	Objection to Request for Attorney's
7	Fees and Notice of Intention to
8	Appear, was marked for purposes of
9	identification.)
10	
11	Q. Handing you what has been labeled
12	Exhibit 2, a document filed in this case, ECF
13	963, Objection to Request For Attorneys' Fees
L 4	and Notice of Intention to Appear.
L 5	Have you seen this document before?
L 6	A. Yes.
L 7	Q. When was the first time you saw it?
L 8	A. Probably soon after we somewhere
L 9	in the beginning to middle of February.
20	Q. So after it was filed?
21	A. I believe I saw it before it was
22	filed.
23	Q. Did you have any role in either
24	drafting this or developing the arguments that
25	are contained in this objection?

1	A. No, I didn't.
2	Q. Do you strike that.
3	Did you have any objections to
4	class counsel's request for attorneys' fees
5	before talking to your counsel in this case?
6	A. No.
7	Q. Do you think you have a good sense
8	for what your objections are to the class
9	counsel's request for attorneys' fees?
10	A. Yes. Well, I do more so today,
11	after what I heard today, yes.
12	Q. After listening to my questioning
13	of Mr. Galan?
14	A. Yes.
15	Q. So are you saying you didn't really
16	have a good sense to what you were objecting
17	to, until you heard me question Mr. Galan?
18	A. No. It is more why. I had a clear
19	sense that Ed felt that these fees were
20	excessive. I knew there was a lot of millions
21	of dollars of trading that I had done during
22	that time period, so I felt there was valid
23	reason for me to be involved in it.

which cases he cited in this is his work.

What the exact particulars and

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1	Q.	So the objection to the size of the
2	fee is your	counsel's objection and not yours?
3	Α.	Yes.
4	Q.	Do you have any idea what class
5	counsel did	to litigate this case?
6	<b>A</b>	What class counsel did?
7	Q .	Yes.
8	<b>A</b> ,	Oh, no.
9	Q.	Do you have any idea how many
10	attorneys b	illed time to this case?
11	<b>A</b> .	No.
12	Q.	Do you know how many hours the
13	plaintiffs'	attorneys worked on behalf of the
14	class in thi	is case?
15	<b>A</b> .	No.
16	Q.	Do you know any of the risks class
17	counsel face	ed in this case?
18	<b>A</b> .	No.
19	Q.	Do you know what the going market
20	rate is for	contingency legal counsel?
21	<b>A</b> .	No.
22	Q.	Do you recall my questioning this
23	morning of N	Mr. Galan, where we went through the
24	class notice	e and talked about how some class
25	members are	entitled to only \$15 de minimis

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1	REPORTER'S CERTIFICATE
2	The State of Ohio, )
3	SS:
4	County of Cuyahoga. )
5	
6	I, Wendy L. Klauss, a Notary Public
7	within and for the State of Ohio, duly
8	commissioned and qualified, do hereby certify
9	that the within named witness, KEITH KORNELL,
10	was by me first duly sworn to testify the
11	truth, the whole truth and nothing but the
12	truth in the cause aforesaid; that the
13	testimony then given by the above-referenced
14	witness was by me reduced to stenotypy in the
15	presence of said witness; afterwards
16	transcribed, and that the foregoing is a true
17	and correct transcription of the testimony so
18	given by the above-referenced witness.
19	I do further certify that this
20	deposition was taken at the time and place in
21	the foregoing caption specified and was

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completed without adjournment.

1	I do further certify that I am not
2	a relative, counsel or attorney for either
3	party, or otherwise interested in the event of
4	this action.
5	IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto
6	set my hand and affixed my seal of office at
7	Cleveland, Ohio, on this 6th day of April,
8	2018.
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12	12 1 011
13	Wendy L. Plauss
14	Wendy L. Klauss, Notary Public
15	within and for the State of Ohio
16	
17	My commission expires July 13, 2019.
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